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Senior Executive Intelligence Brief

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Thursday, 31 August 2000

National Security Information

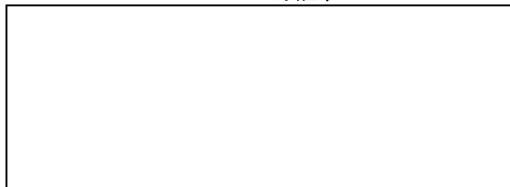
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Regional Notes

Peru: Fujimori Spinning Arms Bust 15

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Peru:

Fujimori Spinning Arms Bust [REDACTED]

President Fujimori's showcasing of the arrests this month of members of a Peruvian-based arms trafficking organization that last year supplied Colombia's FARC with assault rifles from Jordanian stocks is intended to divert attention from official Peruvian ties to the group. It is unclear if senior Peruvian officials were complicit in this arms deal, but the smugglers—who also are involved in narcotics trafficking—in the past have used high-level contacts in the security forces to facilitate their illegal activities.

[REDACTED]

[REDACTED]

Press reports say two relatives of Aybar—both charged in the case—in the past have used official documents provided by Aybar to elude interference from authorities.

— Press accounts also say that the arms smugglers were affiliated with Peru's National Intelligence Service and that the Peruvian military awarded them supply contracts as late as last year. [REDACTED]

The government last week announced a reform of the intelligence services, but Fujimori's trumpeting of Montesinos's role in the arrests is a clear signal of continued support for his controversial adviser. [REDACTED]